

MUMPS SPECIMEN SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

- Testing capacity is limited; therefore, prioritize individuals with classic clinical history and symptoms or direct contacts of known cases.
- **SERUM** - Obtain acute serum specimens (blood collected on red-top tube or clot separator tube) within 3 to 7 days of symptom onset and transport specimens to the KHEL Laboratory promptly.
 - **Federal regulations require that all diagnostic specimens be properly packaged in Diagnostic Specimen/Biological Substance, Category B shipping containers.** Detailed instructions are available at:
 - http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/packaging_and_shipping.html
 - http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/downloads/Diagnostic_Blood_Packaging_Handout.pdf
- The DHEL Laboratory will perform Mumps IgM testing on acute blood samples.
 - If the IgM result is positive, no subsequent blood samples need to be collected.
 - For IgM negative acute results, IgG testing will be done; convalescent samples may be requested. CDC recommends that convalescent specimens be collected approximately 3 weeks after the acute specimen.
- **VIRAL CULTURE** is considered the “gold standard” for Mumps confirmation. KHEL recommends collecting a buccal and/or throat swab on 1 out of every 4 or 5 patients that are tested for IgM. *CSF or Urine specimens are **NOT** recommended at this time.*
 - Prioritize the most highly suspect patients or contacts for viral culture collection. **Culture specimens must be collected as soon as possible after symptom onset, but no later than 3 days post onset.**
 - Use sterile Dacron or polyester-tipped swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. DO NOT use swabs with cotton or calcium alginate; calcium alginate will adversely affect test results. Wood shafts absorb part of the collection medium and emit compounds that can inhibit viral activity in culture and interfere with molecular test results.
 - Use sterile viral culturette systems or other viral transport medium to stabilize virus during storage and transport.
 - **Immediately** refrigerate viral culture specimens and package according to Federal regulations for refrigerated Diagnostic Specimens/Biological Substance, Category B. Transport to DHEL as soon as possible after collection.
 - Instructions for packaging viral culture specimens are available at:
 - http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/downloads/Virus_pictorial_guide.pdf
- KDHE and KHEL Laboratory and the Bureau of Disease Control will notify the submitting facility when Mumps specimens are no longer needed, or when testing capacity has been exceeded during an outbreak situation.